

Statewide Farmworker Health Advisory Council
June 26, 2007
Tele-Conference Notes

Attendees

Cyndi Treaster
Doris Tompkins
Tina Guenther

Matinte Tosima
Jenny Tavares

Agenda

1. Inactive Members. The need to replace two inactive members was discussed, along with possible replacements. A third member, whose wife is very ill, will probably not be attending for awhile but it is hoped he will be able to continue at some point. An updated Advisory Council member list will be sent to current members.

2. Competitive Grant Award & Waiver Request. The Advisory Council discussed and collectively agreed a waiver request should be submitted as requested in the February Notice of Grant award. The Advisory Council should be allowed to meet in quarterly tele-conferences versus monthly meetings. Members felt the workload does not warrant monthly meetings and the tele-conferences are the most convenient way of meeting.

3. Provider Satisfaction Survey. Cyndi reported 60-70 provider surveys were returned, a rate she considers good. The surveys are currently being tabulated. Two recurring issues as identified by service providers: the need to speed up the billing/payment process and the need for better communication in western Kansas. Cyndi feels both have been resolved and added the billing process will be discussed in the July newsletter.

4. Personnel Changes. Gabriella Barron, western Kansas case manager, will leave the program in August. This position is contracted through Mexican American Ministries. They will put out a job announcement notice in July. Cyndi hopes to have someone hired and overlap by 1-2 weeks to train the new person before Gabi leaves. Since she is such a good resource and knowledgeable about the program, she will be asked to join the Advisory Council.

Former Administrative Assistant Naomi left her position in April to start her own business. A temporary worker is currently filling the position. Interviews of 7-8 applicants will be held Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

5. OLRH Structure Change. Because Cyndi is now also co-directing the Refugee Health Program, there is consideration for restructuring her position and the programs she manages. The Refugee program provides health assessments to individuals who are refugees or asylees for TB, parasites and other communicable diseases within eight months of their entry into the U.S.

6. Project Application. The program's application was approved for a 5-year continuation at the same funding level; funding is provided in yearly allocations and drawn down by KDHE. A yearly non-competitive application is prepared each July, which basically reviews the previous year's goals and performance achievements as a forecast for the following year. It was reported the program served over 110 more clients in 2006 than in 2005 without additional funding. How to serve more people without more funds is an issue to be discussed in the grant. This year's application will also discuss strategies for tracking children's immunizations as not all counties are using the Kansas Immunization Registry. Diabetes will also be a continued focus. Cyndi will send members the current business and health plans for comments. Comments should be back to Cyndi by July 9.

7. Other Issues/Questions. None.

Next tele-conference: September 2007